

## REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY East Germany

**SUBJECT** Difficulties in Research Work at VEB Jenaphan

**PLACE  
ACQUIRED**

DATE OF INFO.

DATE DISTR. 22 November 1955 25X1

NO. OF PAGES 22

**NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)****SUPPLEMENT TO**  
**REPORT** 

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As late as July 1955, no solutions were found for the difficulties which had arisen at the VEB Jenapharm in connection with changes in the leading personnel as well as with regard to the continuation of research work and improvement of production methods. The Health Ministry had not yet reached any decision on the future management of the plant. The maintaining of high scientific standards is indispensable for all further development of high-quality pharmaceutical products. By mid-1955, all scientists employed at Jenapharm were overworked as a result of excessive demands. Plant director Dr Willi Koehler was sent on a compulsory vacation in early June 1955. Pharmacist Pechner (fmu) presented his resignation on 1 June 1955 and was expected to leave his post on 1 August. Production chiefs Dr Schwabe (fmu) and Dr Elsassner (fmu) also resigned. Dr Spinner (fmu), production chief of the penicillin plant, [redacted] sent on leave. When the plant management made an attempt to appropriate research funds for other departments, Dr A. Schubert, the leader of the research department presented his resignation. No successor was assigned as late as late July. [redacted]

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the appointment of personnel to the different departments of VEB Jenapharm were reached by the SED Central Committee because the Referent in charge of these matters had been fired and no successor has been appointed by Party Secretary Walter Ulbricht.

2. The situation in the different fields of research at Jenapharm is characterized by the lack of scientists. In late July, vitamin B-12 research was discontinued for lack of a qualified person. Dr A. Schubert continued his work on steroid hormones. Streptomycin and penicillin research came to a standstill in July and consequently no new production methods will be forthcoming in 1955. In the field of hormones, a new cortisone production method is under development, but industrial application of the new method is not to be expected prior to mid-1956 for lack of suitable workshops.

3. All cooperation between the research laboratories of Jenapharm and Jena university institutes was officially stopped in the summer of 1955. Prof Guenther Drefahl of the Jena Institute for Organic Chemistry and Biology was the only scientist supported by Jenapharm.

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